

Indian Telecommunications Services

4216. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI PARBHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Bombay, the Indian telecom services are far behind other countries in quantity, quality and pricing;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for further improvement in telecom services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) DoT is aware of the Chapter on "Telecommunications" of the report of study conducted by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research. Eventhough the Indian telecommunication network may not be comparable to that of developed countries, considerable progress has been made in Indian telecom network during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

During the first four years of Eighth Plan the network has more than doubled. There has been steady improvement in the quality of service with the introduction of electronic digital switches for local as well as long distance swithing, Digital Transmission Systems, Optical Fibre Systems and improvement in customer premises equipment. Further penetration of these latest technology systems in the network during the Ninth Plan will bring more improvement in the Quality of Service.

The Government have also allowed private sector participation in value added services and basic services to supplement the efforts of DoT in improving the quality and quantity of Indian Telecom Network.

The prices of telecom service in India are determined, taking into account India's ground realities, particularly the necessity of supporting rural telecom network and generating surpluses for ploughing back for infrastructural development, growth and expansions.

[English]

Amount spent on Travelling by MP's

4217. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on travelling by Members of Parliament by Rail during the last two years;

(b) the total expenditure in providing free rail passes to Freedom Fighters during the above period;

(c) whether there are plans to minimise expenditure on the above two categories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Debits raised on Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha for rail travel of MPs during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is Rs. 4.35 crores.

(b) Debits raised on Ministry of Home Affairs for rail travel of Freedom Fighters during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is Rs. 102.29 crores.

(c) and (d) There is no such plan with this Ministry.

Night Landing Facilities

4218. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI RAJU RANA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide night landing facilities to some airports during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details of such airports; and

(c) the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Night Landing Facilities will be installed at Tirupati, Lilabari and Jammu airports during 1997-98. During 1998-99 no airport has been identified so far for providing this facility.

(c) The amount earmarked is Tirupati Rs. 40 lakhs, Lilabari Rs. 140 lakhs and Jammu Rs. 126 lakhs.

Advertisements

4219. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government give advertisements in various newspapers for inauguration of various railway projects;

(b) if so, the details of such advertisements given from June 15, 1996 till date;

(c) the amount spent thereon;

(d) the amount spent in this regard during the corresponding period in the last two years;

(e) whether the amount spent during the current year is much more as compared to previous year; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Advertisements were published in the newspapers during the year 1996-97 by the Railways on the occasion of inaugural functions pertaining to new projects/new zones, etc. An amount of Rs. 3.74,13,749/- (approx.) has been spent for the same.

(d) Amount of Rs. 55,59,695/- (approx.) and Rs. 1,36,94,478/- (approx.) have spent during the corresponding period of 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Railway Advertisements are normally released at DAVP rates which are comparably lower than the commercial rates of the newspapers. Such advertisements in the newspapers are restricted to only major events/projects having national relevance and in such cases proper care is taken to restrict the number of newspapers so as to keep the expenditure within the available funds.

[Translation]

Cases Against Registered Recruiting Agents

4220. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only registration certificates of the agents sending labourers abroad are cancelled and no criminal cases are registered against them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Complaints received against registered Recruiting Agents are examined in consultation with the concerned missions abroad and

action for suspension and cancellation of their Registration Certificates is taken according to the merits of the cases are provided under Section 14 of the Emigration Act, 1983. In addition to the above, cases are also referred to the Police/C.B.I. for Investigations.

[English]

Cancellation of Scheduled Programmes from Gujarat Doordarshan

4221. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of scheduled programmes telecast on Doordarshan Kendras of Gujarat have been cancelled or stopped during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or being taken against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise details for the period from 1994 to 1996 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The scheduled programmes are cancelled on account of compulsory relay of National Network programmes, State Mourning, Election Code of Conduct, last minute cancellation of recordings resulting in non-availability of programmes and failure of power supply.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of the Cancelled Programmes

Date	Time	Reasons for cancellation	Cancelled Regional Programme
1	2	3	4
1-7-94	5-01 pm to 7-25 pm 7-46 pm to 8.00 pm	Wimbeldon live and Chitrahaar	1. Gulshan Gulshan 2. Adult Education 3. Apna Udyog 4. Gram Jagat 5. Spon. Serial 6. Saptahiki
3-7-94	7-45 pm to 8.00 pm	-do-	Sponsored Serial
9-7-94	8-05 pm to 8.30 pm	Network Programmes	1. Antarang Gujarat and Spon. Serial-Amasna Tara
9-7-94	8-15 pm to 8-30 pm	Akasha Urja Strot	Ata Pata
19-7-94	5-00 pm to 6-52 pm	Hindi Film-Aqta	1. Comm. Programme 2. Sambharana 3. Swasthya Sudha 4. Yuva Darshan 5. Gram Jagat